

## Staff Interpretation

**Important information regarding staff interpretations:**

*Staff interpretations are one staff member's explanation of the answer to a question generated by a stakeholder. Staff interpretations **are not** binding.*

**Subject:** Residential conditioned and unconditioned basement insulation requirements

**Code:** 2015 Minnesota Residential Code, section R402.2.8 (a) exception

**Issued By:** Don Sivigny

**Issue Date:** April 5, 2016

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**Question:** (rephrased) Does the exception to Section R402.2.8 (a) accurately state what was intended by the department?

**Answer:** No, it was intended to apply to conditioned basements, not unconditioned basements.

**Background:** The exception was added to allow the installation of R-10 insulation on foundation walls instead of the R-15 foundation wall insulation required in Table R402.1.1. The department recognizes that as written this rule has created some confusion for end users. The following information is to clarify the intent of this code section and we will rewrite this section in the future to clarify the intent.

The exception was intended to apply only to conditioned basements. As written it appears to apply only to unconditioned basements.

The intent of this exception is to allow R-10 insulation on the exterior side of the foundation walls enclosing conditioned space if the following requirements are met.

1. The R-10 insulation must be installed on the exterior side of the foundation wall,
2. Each square foot of foundation wall, of each side, that is above grade shall be no more than 1.5 times the length of each side of the foundation wall that encloses conditioned space. Each side of the foundation walls must be considered and calculated separately.
3. If any of the foundations wall sides uses this exception, blower door testing on the home must meet a 2.6 ACH 50 or less.